

2016 Prescrire Information Awards

The Information Awards focus on the information provided to *Prescrire* by the companies whose products we examined in the New Products section of our French edition in 2016.

HONOURS LIST

(in alphabetical order)

Outstanding:

- CTRS (Cell Therapies Research & Services)
- EG Labo

Followed by:

- Accord Healthcare
- Arrow Génériques
- Delbert
- Eumedica
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Mayoly Spindler
- Medac

RED CARDS

(in alphabetical order)

- Allergan
- Bayer Healthcare
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Celgene
- Effik
- Génévrier
- Genzyme (Sanofi Group)
- Menarini
- Pfizer
- Sanofi Aventis
- Shire

Quality of information from pharmaceutical companies

We use a 4-point scale to rate the quality of the information provided by companies in response to our systematic requests



Company provided detailed information including unpublished data and packaging items.



Company provided information limited to published regulatory data or packaging information.



Company provided minimal information, mainly regulatory and packaging information.



Company provided no information.

Pharmaceutical companies hold a wealth of information on the drugs they market or withdraw from the market. They have a responsibility to share this information, in part to help ensure that their drugs are used appropriately, and to protect patients from certain risks.

As part of its systematic literature search, *Prescrire* requests clinical data, packaging, and administrative and regulatory information from drug companies, then compares them with information obtained from other sources.

Prescrire's Information Awards reflect how each company assumes this responsibility to share information. Our aim is to encourage companies that have a responsible policy on the provision of information, and to urge companies that fail in this responsibility to do better.

Lack of transparency persists. On the whole, pharmaceutical companies provide *Prescrire* with a lot of information, some new and some that we have already obtained elsewhere. But they are less cooperative when asked to provide relevant, detailed documentation, including unpublished data, which may for example contain details about adverse effects.

Some companies choose to be transparent with *Prescrire* and demonstrate this by sending us quality information. These companies are placed on the Honours List. And those rated as "Outstanding" provided us with useful, detailed data without delay and sometimes without being asked.

Other drug companies fail to respond to some or all of our requests for information, or provide only limited data. Some of them delay their response, then fail to provide usable information. Some omit the most important or sensitive data. Red Cards are given to highlight persistent deficiencies in the provision of information by certain drug companies.

As in previous years, few pharmaceutical companies embraced transparency in 2016 by agreeing to share all the data they hold with healthcare professionals. Yet transparency demonstrates a company's commitment to improving medication safety.

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► Translated from *Rev Prescrire* February 2017
Volume 37 N° 400 • Page 88